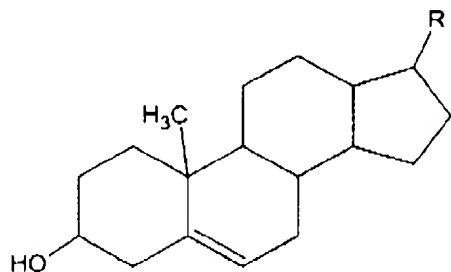


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where R is a branched aliphatic chain of eight or more carbon atoms,  
said lipid molecule comprising a nitric-oxide containing group selected from (a) a

—S—N=O group, (b) a —O—N=O group, and (c) a  $\text{>N—N=O}$  group.

37. (Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is provided within a polymer matrix.

39. (Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is dissolved or dispersed in a solution.

40. (Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is adsorbed on a tissue-contacting surface of said medical article.

41. (Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the nitric oxide releasing compound is provided within a micelle or a liposome.

43. (Amended) A method for therapeutically administering nitric oxide to a patient comprising administering the drug delivery system of claim 33 to said patient.

44. (Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the drug delivery system is administered topically.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the drug delivery system is administered within the body.

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46. (Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the drug delivery system is administered by implantation.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the medical article is an intravascular delivery device.

50. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from atherosclerosis and myocardial infarction in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

51. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing restenosis in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said restenosis.

52. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from peripheral vascular disease, stroke, impotence, septic shock and arthritis in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

53. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from cancer and bacterial infection in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

54. (Amended) A method of treating or preventing a condition selected from one or more of impetigo, epidermolysis bullosa, eczema, neurodermatitis, psoriasis, pruritis, diaper rash and lock itch in a patient, said

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method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to treat or prevent said condition.

55. (Amended) A method of promoting wound healing in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to promote said wound healing.

56. (Amended) A method of reducing cells present in an atherosclerotic lesion in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient the drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the drug delivery system comprises an amount of the nitric oxide releasing compound effective to reduce the cells present in said atherosclerotic lesion.

**Please add new claims 58-70 as follows:**

58. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the lipid molecule is a lipid molecule having a sphingosine base as a backbone.

59. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 58, wherein the lipid having a sphingosine base as a backbone is N,N,N-trimethylsphingosine.

60. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 58, wherein the lipid having a sphingosine base as a backbone is a sphingolipid.

61. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 60, wherein the sphingolipid is a ganglioside.

62. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the lipid molecule is said phosphoglyceride.

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63. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 62, wherein the phosphoglyceride is phosphatidylinositol or phosphatidylcholine.

64. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein the lipid molecule is said sterol compound.

65. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 64, wherein said sterol compound is cholesterol.

66. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  $\text{—S—N=O}$  moiety.

67. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  $\text{—O—N=O}$  moiety.

68. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 33, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  $\text{>N—N=O}$  moiety.

69. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 68, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  $\begin{array}{c} \text{—N—N—O} \\ | \\ \text{N=O} \end{array}$  moiety.

70. (Newly added) The drug delivery system of claim 69, wherein said nitric-oxide containing group comprises a  $\begin{array}{c} \text{—N} \quad \text{N—N—N—O} \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \quad | \\ \text{C}_6\text{H}_{10} \quad \text{N=O} \end{array}$  moiety.